

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-41 remain pending in the application. Claim 2 has previously been cancelled. Claims 42-71 remain pending, but have been withdrawn from consideration following a restriction requirement. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim currently under consideration.

In the previous Office Action, the Examiner had indicated that claim 2 contained allowable subject matter with its recitation of applying adhesive to form a non-zero contact angle with a contacting surface of a sheet. Such a feature encompasses, for example, the exemplary non-zero contact angle shown in Applicants' Figures 5 and 6 for each of plural sheets bound to a cover. Applicants' last response amended independent claim 1 to include this allowable feature.

However, the Examiner has reconsidered the allowability of amended claim 1. The Examiner now asserts that the adhesive 112 is included on the front of each page in the Lawton publication's Figure 8, and for one sheet 102(1), the adhesive 112 would contact cover 104. However, the Examiner's analysis only holds true for sheet 102(1) and not for the plurality of sheets bound to cover 104. As such, the Lawton publication's Figure 8 does not read on Applicants' claim 1 combination. Therefore, Applicants' respectfully assert that the Examiner's initial conclusions regarding the allowability of the present claims was correct, and that claim 1 is allowable.

The Office Action rejects claim 1, and various dependent claims, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0086773 to Lawton.

The remaining dependent claims under consideration were rejected over various combinations of documents: claims 3 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§103(a) over Lawton in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,799,391 to Bergholtz et al.; claims 4, 5, 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lawton in view of U.S. Patent N. 6,213,703 to Garrido; claims 6-10, 17, 18, 20, 21, 27-31, 37, 38, 40 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lawton in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,273,661 to Payne; and claims 13, 14, 34 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Lawton in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0067977 to Cobene, II et al. All of the foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed, and it is requested that the Examiner re-evaluate his earlier assessment as to the allowability of claim 1.

The Lawton publication does not disclose applying an adhesive to a contacting surface of a plurality of sheets of a text body on an individual sheet wide basis wherein the applied adhesive forms a non-zero contact angle with the contacting surface as in Applicants' independent claim 1. This claimed feature encompasses exemplary embodiments described in the specification. For example, Applicants' embodiment illustrated in Fig. 5 illustrates sheet 502 has a contacting surface 504. Adhesive 506 is applied to contacting surface 504 at contact angle Θ_c .

In rejecting claim 1 in the paragraph bridging pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner refers to Figures 8 and 9 of the Lawton publication wherein adhesive 110, 112, 114 is applied to an edge and adjacent sides of pages 102. Because the Lawton publication discloses that the adhesive 110 is applied to the edge, and that adhesive 112, 114 is also applied to the front and back of each sheet 102, the Lawton publication does not disclose adhesive applied to a contacting surface "of a plurality of sheets of the text body on an individual sheet-wise basis ... wherein the applied adhesive forms a non-zero contact angle with the contacting surface," as recited in Applicants' claim 1.

The Bergholtz patent, the Garrido patent, the Payne patent and the Cobene III, publication do not overcome the deficiencies of the Lawton publication described above. For example, the Cobene II patent discloses a plurality of sheets having a spinal area 34 bounded by two-sided hinge areas 36, 38. A hot melt adhesive 46 is pre-formed, and applied to the text body spine 34. Melted adhesive conforms to the exposed surface features of spinal area 34 and flows into spaces between the edges of the sheets by capillary action. The Cobene II patent does not disclose applying adhesive on an individual sheet-wide basis as in Applicants' claim 1.

The remaining dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the individual features they recite.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: August 20, 2007

By:


Patrick C. Keane
Registration No. 32,858

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703 836 6620